

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting of March 17, 2010

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Senator Donald Norcross
Mr. Charles W. Schilling – Acting Chairman
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Paul Hartstein
Mr. Armando Roman
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Lewis Candura
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Ronald Phillips
Mr. Fredrick Collender

Commission Members Excused: Assemblyman John Wisniewski
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. John Lightbody

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
William Kramer, NJDFS
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Glenn Smyth, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Chris Eckert, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Ronald McGowan, Wildwood Crest Fire
David Kurasz, NJFSAB
Chuck Aughenbaugh, NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA
Nicholas Kikis, NJ Apartment Assn.
John Hund, Nutley FD
Irwin Kreisburg, NJDOL PEOSH
Eric Beckhusen, NJDHSS PEOSH
Gerard Duffy, Fire Protection Cont. Adv. Board

A. Call to Order

Acting-Chairman Charles Schilling called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance”, pointing out the fire exits, and observing a moment of silence for all the firefighters that have lost their lives in the past year.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2010, were approved.

C. Correspondence

Acting-Chairman Schilling noted that all correspondence for today’s meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Acting-Chairman Schilling opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo took this opportunity to recognize and welcome the newly appointed legislative member of the Fire Safety Commission – Senator Donald Norcross. Senator Norcross thanked the entire Commission for welcoming him and he looks forward to working in conjunction with them to help better the fire service in New Jersey. He has had the pleasure of working with Commissioner Paul Hartstein and the Camden County fire service, and looks forward to expanding on that throughout the State. Chuck Aughenbaugh from the NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs Association also added his congratulations and gratitude to Senator Norcross for serving on the Commission and dedicating his time and energy to the fire service.

David Kurasz, from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, thanked the Commission – particularly Commissioner Gerard Naylis – for taking the time out to draft a Resolution in support of Residential Fire Sprinklers in one- and two-family homes. Mr. Kurasz also made note that the fire sprinkler regulations are currently being held up by an Executive Order from the Governor. Mr. Kurasz asked that the Commission, as well as anyone else with an interest in fire sprinklers and firefighter safety, come out and comment on these regulations.

With no additional members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo reported that since the last Commission meeting, the Department of Community Affairs has seen the appointment of a new Acting-Commissioner, Lori Grifa. Director Petrillo was able to have a brief meeting with her recently to give an overview of the Division of Fire Safety and the issues it is facing. He will be having more extensive meetings with the new DCA Commissioner in the near future.

The Division of Fire Safety has, in the past few days, been around the State to survey the flood damage from the recent storms that have devastated parts of New Jersey. The damage is severe and wide-spread – specifically in and around Paterson, Wayne, Passaic, and Bound Brook. Director Petrillo commended the Somerset County Coordinator and all emergency responders in these areas for their ability to transport people from flood-damaged areas and pump water out of hundreds of homes.

Also in regards to the recent severe storms, there was a death in Carteret due to carbon monoxide poisoning. The victim had lost power in his home and was using a generator from his garage to power the home. Tragically, the fatality was suffered by the family member whose bedroom was closest to the garage. The Division of Fire Safety will be sending out Bulletins to local fire departments, as well as working on public service announcements, on the issue of carbon monoxide.

Director Petrillo announced that the latest issue of the Division's Fire Focus newsletter has been posted on the NJDFS website. He asked that the Commission members take a look at this issue, specifically a very interesting and informative interview with Dr. Frank Field. Director Petrillo also announced that this year's edition of New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, MD, had been approved. It will take place the weekend of May 22-23, 2010. Information on New Jersey Weekend is now available on the NJDFS website.

Director Petrillo reported that a total of 31 fire departments throughout New Jersey have not submitted their NFIRS data. The penalty for not reporting, as has been talked about in the past, is the withholding of AFG Grant monies. The names of these fire departments have been sent to the federal government, as per the conditions of the AFG Grants.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Division of Fire Safety has been working on several Bulletins in recent months – three of which have gone out. They are on the topics of the Oxford Houses, Code Enforcement in One- and Two-Family Dwellings, and Jewelers Torches. These have been sent to all Fire Officials. There are two other Bulletins that should be sent out shortly, as the Division of Fire Safety has been working closely with the Codes Advisory Council on those.

The Code Enforcement Unit has been reviewing the annual reports from Fire Officials and the Peer Review board has been extremely busy in addressing serious issues in code

enforcement. Also, Code Enforcement has been doing a lot of work on its computer system and that seems to be moving forward. They have also been working with a collection agency to collect outstanding fees and having a fair amount of success with that.

Chief William Kramer reported on New Jersey Weekend, stating that information will be available on the NJDFS website and registration can be done right there online. The Division has gotten somewhat of a late start on planning this, but Chief Kramer is confident that people will get registered for the program and it will be successful.

The Division's Training Unit is currently in the process of doing registrations for the Spring semester. This Unit, although short-handed, is doing a tremendous job. The good news is that most people are now registering via the internet. The Spring courses are currently at about 50-60% capacity.

There have been negotiations between the Division of Fire Safety and the International Codes Council in regards to Legacy testing. The Division has been trying to get the ICC to allowing the Division to use the 2006 exam for their programs. The ICC has agreed to utilize the 2006 exam for the Division, but it will not be in the electronic format. The first test is scheduled to be administered on May 1st at the Camden County Fire Academy.

Chief Kramer offered his personal thanks and congratulations to the fine work that was done by the entire County Coordinator system in responding to the recent severe weather event. It was nice to see everyone come together, both within the counties and regionally, and do an excellent job in coming through for New Jersey's citizens.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo spoke briefly about the upcoming Homeland Security Conference. It will be taking place on June 18th at Kean University. The Conference will feature speakers from the Fire Department of New York, the Philadelphia Fire Department, and the Puerto Rico State Fire Marshal. It will be a jam-packed program and all Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Richard Blohm raised a question regarding the UASI Metro-Strike Team. Director Petrillo answered that there had been an issue about a possible conflict between the MOU signed by local fire departments and the standard operating procedure that the UASI group had drafted. The two documents are being reviewed to see if there is a conflict, but as of now there does not seem to be. For now it is business as usual. Commissioner Blohm said he raised this issue because he had received an email stating that Fire Chiefs of local fire departments would be held liable for allowing their firefighters to respond for this Strike Team. Chief Kramer answered that this reply did not actually come from the Attorney General's Office, and the answer from the AG is 'business as usual' until otherwise notified. Director Petrillo said they would send out this response to all the fire departments involved.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked about the new Bulletins that the Division had sent out to the local fire officials. He requested that these Bulletins also be distributed to the Fire

Safety Commission so they could be informed about these, and future, Bulletins should questions arise. Director Petrillo agreed that this would be done. Commissioner Naylis also inquired about the actual progress of the Division's new computer system. He said that he's heard 'the computer system is moving ahead' for the past several years and asked for a more specific time-frame. Director Petrillo shares Commissioner Naylis's frustration on this issue and answered that the project is on and has been signed off on by the Commissioner's Office and Treasury. As for an actual time-table, the process should be completed – in its entirety – sometime around late-2011 if everything goes according to plan. It is a slow, complex process; but the good news is that it's back on and moving in the right direction.

Commissioner Naylis expressed his encouragement in the fact that the Division is using a collections agency to recoup overdue LHU fees. He asked Director Petrillo how much money is out there waiting to be collected. Director Petrillo answered that it is difficult to say because of the inaccuracy of the out-dated computer system, but his rough estimation would be somewhere around \$6 million. The Division has already collected over \$90,000. But due to limited staffing and the sheer amount of outstanding bills, this will be a time-consuming process.

Commissioner Ronald Phillips brought up the issue of a water crisis in the Bergen County area. Due to the recent severe weather events, many of Bergen County's fire departments were left without a proper water supply to use in case of an emergency. Commissioner Phillips asked if the Division of Fire Safety was aware of this issue and, if so, what had been done about it. Director Petrillo and Chief Kramer said they were aware that a tender had been moved from Sussex County to Bergen in response to this. Commissioner Phillips asked if there was any official protocol that should be followed during an issue like this because it has happened in the past. Director Petrillo said that it should be reported directly by the Board of Public Utilities and he will contact them about this issue.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council had met on February 17th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

One main topic of discussion was regarding vacant buildings. Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Committee is continuing to work on this issue. The original concern was that companies were moving into buildings for seasonal use and not registering with the fire official. By the time paperwork could be filled out and processed, the place was closed and the operator had moved on. The Committee has discussed issuing some kind of permit or local registration rather than a new LHU. The main concern attached to this issue is firefighter safety. If and when there is an incident in one of these vacant buildings, it would not be a good situation to have fire personnel entering the buildings with little to no knowledge of the conditions and contents.

Commissioner Schilling reported on the GAMIN'RIDE mobile video game theater. The question is whether this will be classified as a building or a vehicle. The Division of Codes and Standards has met with the manufacturer of these machines and expressed their concerns about their safety. The Division of Codes and Standards believes that a State permit – such as one issued for carnivals, etc. – is probably the best way to deal with these attractions.

The Sub-Committee that is working on Subchapter 4 has met once, back in December, and will continue to work on about 15-20 items contained in it. Once there are recommendations from this Sub-Committee, Commissioner Schilling will bring them before the Fire Safety Commission. Commissioner Wood asked if the Codes Council is also looking again at Subchapter 3. Chief Kilmer answered that the Codes Council will be addressing this issue at their next meeting in April.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the issue of Portable Electric Drop Lights. One member of the Codes Council brought up a fire incident that was caused by a regular portable electrical drop light igniting a flammable liquid spill. Commissioner Schilling said the Codes Council would be looking into this further, but it is something that would be difficult to enforce and the fire service community should be aware of.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council will be April 21, 2010 at 9:30 AM. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson gave the following report of the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on February 16th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

We discussed the proposal for amendments to the Fire Officer Certification Standards. Due to bad weather in several areas of the State, we did not have a quorum of the Council present. Those present agreed with the recommendations. All agreed to an e-mail vote by the Council. That was done. The results and recommendations were sent to the Fire Safety Commission members by e-mail on March 6th. I will be proposing a motion for the Commission to endorse the proposal and recommend the Commissioner publish it in the *Register*.

Kent Neiswender reported on several projects including:

- The New Jersey Addendum is moving along. It will not be printed. It will likely be distributed to EOs on a CD and posted on the Division website for download. The Table of Contents is part of the Proposal currently printed in the *Register*.
- The review of Firefighter I questions associated with the Jones & Bartlett text has been completed with the assistance of a Subject Matter Experts Panel. The number of

questions in the various competencies has been reallocated. The review of the Firefighter II questions is in progress.

- The revisions to the Fire Instructor Certification Standards are on hold in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 1.
- The NIMS All Hazard Course for Operations Chief will be offered this semester. It is a 4-day course.
- The Division is still looking at options for National Certification (Pro-Board). The invitation from the Administration to continue is still open.

At the direction of the Council, I sent a memo to the Director on January 2nd outlining our concern about the Fire Inspector Exam. We request that a meeting of the Tier I Eligible Organizations that offer the Inspector course be convened. Some of the questions that should be discussed are: Does the test need to be changed? Should we develop a New Jersey test? Is the test the only thing that needs changing in this program? No meeting had been scheduled.

The Instructor standards require two years of instructor experience as a condition to qualify for certification as Fire Instructor II. There were reports that some EOs are teaching the course work for levels I and II at the same time. Many feel that the class work for Level II is better understood if the student has experience as an instructor.

The next T&E Council meeting will be April 27th at the Dempster Training Center at 10 am. This is a week later than normal as many members will be at FDIC the previous week.

Following his report, Commissioner Anderson spoke about the March 6th Memo he had submitted to the Fire Safety Commission regarding the Fire Officer Standards. This memo, and all revisions to the standards, was contained in the Commission packets. Commissioner Anderson reviewed many of the changes to the Fire Officer certification Standards. A discussion was held on these proposed standards.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked who would determine equivalent courses that are not listed. Would it be the employer? Commissioner Anderson said they would be compiling a list of equivalencies in conjunction with the Division of Fire Safety. Commissioner Blohm asked about the budgeting/personnel issues attached to these changes. Commissioner Blohm also wanted it to be clear that there is no intent to make these proposed standards mandatory. Director Petrillo answered the Division recognizes that these standards are not mandatory and that Firefighter I is not even mandatory yet, so that would have to be the first thing. Chief Kramer added that there was a statute passed giving the Division of Fire Safety the authority to mandate Incident Management certification. So without a similar statute that says the Division can mandate Fire Officer certification, the standard would be voluntary. Chief Kramer further stated that Commissioner Ken Anderson, the Training and Education Advisory Council, the Division of Fire Safety, and the stakeholders in these changes to the certification standards have gone above and beyond in doing their due diligence on this issue.

Commissioner Ken Anderson made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission endorse the submitted recommendations for changes to the Fire Officer certification Standards and recommend to the DCA Commissioner for publication in the *New Jersey Register* as a Proposal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council met on February 2nd and reviewed the 2008 Fire In New Jersey Annual Report. This report is now available on the NJDFS website and all Commission members are encouraged to check it out. The Council has seen significantly increased use of the data, allowing people to be accurately informed as to what the fire problem in New Jersey is.

Statistically, 88% of fire departments have reported for 2009. It is expected that this number will climb to around 95-96% by the time all data for 2009 has been submitted. There are four counties in New Jersey that have achieved 100% reporting. Hopefully the news about AFG Grants being held up by the federal government will spread and this will compel the fire departments that are not yet reporting to do so. The NFIRS Unit was also instrumental in providing data for the Residential Sprinkler Resolution. This data will be attached to the report accompanying the Resolution.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council has continued to look into the potential streamlining of communications from the Division of Fire Safety – namely of using e-mail rather than certified mailings. Legislation may have to be enacted to accomplish this change, but it is believed that the cost savings of this change will be in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council is also in the process of reorganizing. Commissioner Naylis mentioned that several new members of the Council may be added in the near future, as the existing members are diligently recruiting.

The next meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be Tuesday, April 6th at the Monmouth County Fire Academy.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, no report was given.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council had not met since the last Fire Safety Commission meeting. He would defer to Commissioner Paul Hartstein to report on an announcement of a joint meeting between Public Education and Juvenile Firesetters Prevention Council.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be Thursday, May 13th at 10 AM at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on January 27th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The Department of Labor has a new Commissioner Hal Wirths. They have issued the Elizabeth Firefighter fatality report and indicated that NIOSH had also issued their report on that unfortunate tragedy. They also reported that they are continuing with doing inspections of fire departments around the State. The Department of Health also has a new Commissioner, Poonam Alaigh.

The New Jersey Forest Fire Service also has a new Commissioner, Bob Martin. NJFFS had provided some high water vehicles for the flooding that occurred in Cape May County (Wildwood) last November and stressed that the emergency services recognize that it is required and essential to wear PFDs during responses in high water.

From the DEP, in December there was a park worker killed resulting from a falling tree while using a chainsaw. PEOSH will most likely be issuing fines for violations surrounding that accident. This was brought up due to the very recent storm where many emergency workers were operating powersaws, probably conducting the same activities. Commissioner Blohm suggested the Division of Fire Safety possibly sending out a Bulletin on this.

There were a couple guests at the recent Firefighter Safety and Health meeting – Mr. Tony Correia, Director of Fire Services of Burlington County, and Dr. Ken LaVelle, an MD who is very interested in participating in a working Fire & EMS group to address rehab plans and presented a brief PowerPoint presentation. They requested the opportunity to discuss Rehab with our Council to find the best way to exchange information and put forward a recommendation for Fire & EMS disciplines. A Sub-Committee from FFH&S, along with EMS representatives, has set a goal for May to complete a working document to be put forward to the emergency services. Commissioner Blohm requested that the Division of Fire Safety have an opportunity to review the work product generated from this initiative and also make whatever suggestions they deem appropriate, and that this document be disseminated throughout the emergency service community.

Commissioner Blohm also mentioned that NJTF1 is having its budget cut and is looking for whatever support that can be mustered on their behalf.

Commissioner Blohm made a motion that Jim Yates be added to the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be today, March 17th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 1:30 PM.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked Commissioner Blohm if there were more problems this year stemming from the St. Patrick's Day. Commissioner Blohm answered that the City of Hoboken was again assaulted, yet the city made a lot of money via summons issued the day of the parade.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on March 10th at the Burlington County Fire Academy. The major topic discussed at the meeting was criteria for recognized Juvenile Firesetter programs. These programs need to meet the needs of the fire service as well as the mental health industry. Fire officials need to have quality programs to report to when an incident involving a juvenile takes place within their jurisdiction. The Council did not come to a conclusion on this issue just yet, and is awaiting additional information at the next meeting.

Mike Reed, the Fire Marshal from Burlington County who also serves as the Council's IAAI representative, reaffirmed his organization's dedication to Juvenile Firesetter programs – including the Juvenile Firesetter Conference in December. Commissioner Hartstein asked as to whether the Conference had been approved for 2010. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that it is currently going through the system but he will let them know once it is officially approved.

There will be a joint meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council and the Public Education Advisory Council this summer. It will be held on July 8th at the Camden County Fire Academy and it will include a barbecue lunch.

There will be a Juvenile Firesetter I class taking place in Atlantic City on March 23rd and 24th. There also may be a Juvenile Firesetter II class offered at the Wildwood Convention in September if some FEMA funding for it comes through.

Contained in the Commission packets are a couple of flyer announcements for upcoming events. One is for the 4th Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference in Massachusetts, including the Massachusetts State Police 'Kids and Bombs' seminar. The other flyer is for the upcoming NASFM-offered course on April 7th for public educators. This will be hosted at Bergen County Fire Academy. Fire-Proof Children from Rochester, NY, will be the presenters.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council will be May 12th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 11 AM.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the Residential Sprinkler Resolution that the Commission voted to draft at the previous meeting. Commissioner Naylis and Commissioner Anderson drafted this Resolution – along with a supporting document and statistics – and submitted it to the entire Fire Safety Commission via e-mail. There is also a draft in the Commission packets today. Commissioner Naylis also thanked Commissioner Candura for his help on the document. To summarize, the Resolution urges the Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and DCA Commissioner to move forward with the adoption of the one- and two-family sprinkler regulations, as it is a public safety issue. Commissioner Candura urged the Fire Safety Commission to adopt this Resolution today.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that the Residential Sprinkler Resolution be adopted by the Fire Safety Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Arthur Londensky asked for an update on the Highway Traffic Safety document. State Fire Marshal Petrillo said that the Acting-Director of Homeland Security, Charles McKenna, indicated that he would personally take an interest in moving this document forward and work with the Attorney General on it. He did ask that the Division of Fire Safety hold off for now on drafting letters on the topic, and to give him a chance to intervene.

Commissioner Naylis asked if there had been any news on the manifold failure that occurred and caused firefighter injuries. Chief Kramer answered there has been nothing new on this investigation, but the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office has been working with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office on this and the manufacturer has been subpoenaed. Commissioner Naylis also asked about the Department of Health fact sheet that was discussed at the last meeting, suggesting that the fact sheet be distributed electronically. Commissioner Blohm also made the Commission aware representatives from the Department of Health and Department of Labor if there are any questions. State Fire Marshal Petrillo thanked Mr. Kreisburg and Mr. Beckhusen for coming.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the letter to the Governor he suggested at the last meeting – regarding the proper staffing of the Division of Fire Safety – had been sent. Chief Kramer answered that the letter had been drafted by Division staff and has been awaiting Assemblyman Wisniewski's endorsement for several weeks. Commissioner Anderson also asked about the issue of phone companies shutting down service to certain apartment buildings. Assemblyman Wisniewski has drafted legislation on this and it is contained in the Commission packets. Chief Kramer suggested that the Codes Council

also take a look at this issue. Commissioner Naylis commented that there could possibly be something added to this bill regarding water companies having to make a notification when water supplies to sprinkler systems are shut off.

Commissioner Wood asked whether the DCA Commissioner had been invited to this and future Fire Safety Commission meetings. Director Petrillo answered that the DCA Commissioner is always sent the meeting minutes, meeting announcement, and an invitation is extended for every meeting. Director Petrillo feels optimistic about the newly-appointed DCA Commissioner attending future meetings of the Fire Safety Commission. Commissioner Wood again suggested that a representative from the Commission reach out to Governor Christie. Senator Bucco said he would do so at the prior meeting, but unfortunately is not in attendance to give an update today. Commissioner Wood also spoke on the subject of converting as much communication information – for the fire service and police alike – into an electronic form. This would make the information more accessible and save on all the reams and reams of paper being used. Commissioner Arthur Mercurio also suggested that the Commission hold more of its meetings in Trenton for close access to legislators. Since the meeting schedule is already set for 2010, this will be looked into for 2011.

I. New Business

Commissioner Paul Hartstein suggested the possibility of forming a Legislative Committee within the Fire Safety Commission. His thought was that it would be good to have a Committee to monitor all the legislation that is drafted and adopted that concerns the State's fire service. Acting-Chairman Schilling and Director Petrillo both found this to be a great idea, but suggested that the forming of a new Committee should wait until the next meeting when Chairman Wisniewski is present.

Director Petrillo mentioned that there were important events upcoming for the New Jersey FIRE Bowl program. The students' trip to Middlesex Fire Academy will be taking place on March 26th; and the Final Event will be held on May 20th at Kean University. Director Petrillo strongly urged all Commission members to attend as it is a great program and great way to connect with young people interested in the fire service.

J. Public Comment II

Chuck Aughenbaugh from the NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs Association spoke about the Highway Traffic Safety guidelines. At the last meeting, the Division of Fire Safety said it would be writing a letter on this topic but has not done so accordingly to its report. Mr. Aughenbaugh asked if it was directed by Chairman Wisniewski to hold off on the letter. State Fire Marshal Petrillo indicated that he had spoke personally to Commissioner McKenna from Homeland Security and he had asked that the Division give him a chance to see to this issue personally before drafting a letter. Mr. Aughenbaugh felt strongly that a letter should have been written and sent as per Chairman Wisniewski's orders. Chief Kramer answered that Assemblyman Wisniewski's staff has been informed of the

situation with Commissioner McKenna and if he and his staff would still like to write a letter they do not need the Division of Fire Safety's permission.

Mr. Aughenbaugh spoke about the importance of the Division of Fire Safety holding onto the funds that it generates for its own operations. This was indicated as a suggestion in the Governor's Transition Report. Mr. Aughenbaugh felt it would be beneficial to have a neutral party in on budget meetings to point out the findings of the Transition Report. Mr. Aughenbaugh also spoke about the water supply issue in Bergen County. He feels there should be a more effective mechanism to notify the Division of Fire Safety and local fire departments when emergencies like this occur. Some types of notification procedure needs to be worked out with the utilities.

Mr. Aughenbaugh also distributed a document stemming from an incident in South Carolina, which saw criminal charges filed against Fire Command Officers. Mr. Aughenbaugh feels these Officers need to be protected from being liable in situations like these. Commissioner Anderson commented that NIMS is the national system and it has an incident command system in it. It talks about people being qualified to fit particular positions – it does not say they must be Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, etc. They just must be qualified. There are various training programs for these positions and we have a Fire Deployment Act which, through the system, allows the deployment of fire service resources. Resources are not only hoses and ladders, they are people too. What is proposed as a bill in this State, it will be very detrimental to rural areas since they do not have personnel specifically labeled as "Deputy Chief" or other such titles. This will create a problem, but there are other ways to work them out.

Chief Kramer noted that at the last meeting it was requested a document be put together to be distributed to legislators that explains and outlines the mission of the Fire Safety Commission. He suggested basing this document off of the 25th Anniversary Report. A Committee was formed – including Commissioners Naylis, Anderson, and Candura – to work on and finalize this document.

K. Adjournment

Acting-Chairman Schilling asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on
May 19, 2010 at 10am. It will be held at the Monmouth
Junction Fire Department Headquarters in Monmouth
Junction, NJ. ***